

East Sacramento Improvement Association
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
January 9, 2012
MINUTES

In attendance: David Diepenbrock, Ann Hamel, George Koufasimis, Paul Noble, Cyril Shah, and Barbara Schor.

Paul Noble called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Guest Presentations

1. Presentation by Kumal Merchant, Chief of Staff to Mayor Johnson, re Checks and Balances Act of 2012.

Mr. Merchant explained that the Checks and Balances Act of 2012 was designed to address community concerns regarding the Mayor's last "Strong Mayor" proposal, and stated that the Mayor hopes to put the 2012 plan on the June ballot. The Act has the following elements:

- Creates an executive mayor system in place of the current ceremonial model. The Mayor believes the current system lacks accountability. City residents often expect the Mayor to have authority over the City business, but his ceremonial position does not him provide such authority. The Mayor believes that the high turnover in the City Manager's office (four people during the last 18 months) is a symptom of the lack of accountability.
- Creates a Citizen's Ethics Commission.
- Provides for redistricting by an independent commission instead of the Council.
- Gives the Council the option of creating a 9th Council position to fill the Mayor's spot if the initiative passes. As an executive mayor, he would no longer attend Council meetings.
- The Act would Sunset in 8 years unless it is re-authorized by City voters.

As compared to the last proposal, this one does not give the Mayor the power to appoint or fire either the City Attorney or the City Treasurer. The City Manager would still be responsible for hiring and firing City department heads. The Act makes no changes to existing civil service protections.

2. Presentation by Jeff Cuneo re plans for Sutter Middle School.

Mr. Cuneo confirmed that the School Board had taken the proposal for a new high school off the table. By way of background, Jeff had proposed placing a new high school at the current Sutter MS site, and moving the Sutter program to the current Kit Carson site. Patrick Kennedy proposed a swap between West Campus and the St. Hope charter school located at the old Sac High campus. Another proposed option was to co-locate West Campus and St. Hope.

The District is now back at ‘square one,’ and is asking for new suggestions and input on the qualities people want in a local high school, e.g. sports, challenging academics, etc. Jeff is also in discussions with Sac State about locating a high school there, and has visited the Mira Loma IB program. He is still open to putting something at the old Sac High campus. Jeff is looking for feedback during the next two months.

New facility options: Stonebridge Properties is not interested in using the Sutter Memorial Hospital location; construction financing is also a problem. A charter school might work there. District surplus properties are located at 16th & N, and 27th and I. Available Consent Decree monies: \$7,000,000. Jeff currently has two ideas for co-locating with St. Hope at the old Sac High campus: (1) keep the Met program there, or (2) establish a visual and performing arts program there.

Of the 1200 high-school aged students in the old Sac High attendance area, Jeff believes about 900 would potentially be interested in attending a local public high school.

Business Session

3. Minutes for November 7, 2011. The notes from that meeting were approved unanimously.
4. Treasurer’s report. Daniel was not in attendance and so no report was provided at the meeting. Daniel informed Paul that he would email us current account statements.

Executive Board Session – *ESIA board members only* – 6:10 pm

Old Business

5. Progress on reinstating tax exempt status. Paul reported that Daniel sent all of the materials to the IRS, but had not yet received any response.

New Business

6. Discussion of Checks and Balances Act. The Board approved the submission of a short resolution to Steve Cohn stating that while the Board takes no position on the merits of the Act, it supports putting the Act on the June ballot for consideration by City voters.
7. Discussion of Sutter Middle School/high school for East Sacramento. Board members discussed the issues raised by Mr. Cuneo’s presentation. Among other comments, Ann suggested that efforts should focus on finding a way for a new

program to share the old Sac High Campus with St. Hope. Cyril and David offered to hold a follow up conversation with Jeff Cuneo.

8. Next General Meeting/Newsletter. Board members decided that the next General Membership meeting should be held in mid-March, and the newsletter sent out in early March. Newsletter ideas are needed. Possible meeting topics/agenda items include: (1) Supervisor Phil Serna as a guest speaker; (2) Clunie Center update; 3) Steve Cohn & City staff re City Budget; and possibly a discussion of the Checks & Balance Act of 2012.
9. Where can we hold our regular Board meetings? Cyril stated that he is happy to host as long as necessary. The Clunie Center is currently available only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. George suggested that the Greek Church located across from the Clunie Center may be available; he offered to look into that option. Barbara stated the Mercy would always be available as a back up.
10. Brainstorm session: How to engage interested volunteers with new community initiatives. This item was deferred to the next meeting
11. Open. No discussion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:02 p.m.